

Protect your child from chickenpox



Chickenpox (varicella) can be serious for children and adults.

Before we had a vaccine, 11,000 people were hospitalized and about 100 people died from chickenpox every year in the U.S. Most deaths occurred in previously healthy children and adults.

Chickenpox usually causes fever and a head-to-toe rash of very itchy blisters which can become infected and cause scarring. It can also lead to pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling), skin and blood infections, and death.

Chickenpox spreads easily and can be passed on to others one to two days before the rash appears. It spreads by coughing, sneezing, or direct contact with the blisters.

About the vaccine

Two doses of varicella vaccine are recommended – the first dose between **12 and 15 months**, and the second dose between **4 and 6 years** (before kindergarten).

Why should my child get the chickenpox vaccine?

Chickenpox can be a mild disease, but it can also be serious for some individuals. There's no way to predict who will become very sick and suffer from complications. People who have the disease can spread it to others who may be at high risk for severe illness. Children with chickenpox must stay home from school or child care until all blisters are crusted over, which can take more than a week. This often means parents miss work, too.

Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic today to get the varicella vaccine.



After the shot

The most common side effects of varicella vaccine are mild and usually include pain and redness where the shot was given and sometimes a low-grade fever. A mild rash may develop around the site of the shot up to one month after vaccination. More serious side effects are rare.

Can my child get the vaccine and still get chickenpox?

Some vaccinated children may still get chickenpox since no vaccine is 100% effective. However, they will usually have a much milder case with fewer than 50 blisters, instead of several hundred. Vaccinated children are less likely to have a fever and tend to recover more quickly. People who have had the vaccine are less likely to get shingles later in life.

Find out more

Visit the
Department
of Health:
www.doh.wa.gov

Find an
immunization
clinic by calling:



 WithinReach

WithinReach Family Health Hotline
1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay)
or **www.ParentHelp123.org**



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Partially funded by the federal Vaccines for Children program.
If you have a disability and need this document in another
format, please call 1-800-322-2588 (711-TTY relay).

325-0157E DOH 348-110 April 2014